



EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD

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Phillip S. Rogers
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: All State Superintendents
Executive Directors of Education Cooperatives

COPY: The Education Professional Standards Board
Commissioner Terry Holliday

FROM: Phillip S. Rogers, Executive Director

DATE: July 9, 2010

SUBJECT: Funding Allocations from the NBPTS Incentive Trust Fund

One of the most important programs the EPSB administers is the National Board Incentive Trust Fund. The trust fund provides support for teachers who seek certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. (The EPSB is responsible for administering the trust fund but does not oversee the \$2,000 annual salary supplement.)

Over the last ten years the annual allocation for the trust fund has been reduced significantly, resulting in the EPSB's having to make critical decisions regarding funding priorities. Thankfully, over the last five years Kentucky teachers have received federal NBPTS subsidies; however, we have little assurance that teachers will continue to receive these NBPTS-designated supplements.

Based on the current budget reductions and the number of current applicants who could potentially receive the 75% reimbursement for the cost of NB certification, we anticipate that there will be insufficient funds available for the substitute teacher reimbursements or the \$ 400 teacher stipends for this cohort of candidates.

Be assured that though we are not anticipating any remaining funds after the 75% reimbursements have been allocated, staff will closely monitor all reimbursements. Any available funds will be identified in the spring semester of 2011 and prorated to districts as per KRS 161.134.

We have also been asked about the consequences of a superintendent's refusal to sign a teacher's application to participate in the trust fund. As you know, 16 KAR 1:040 defines the requirements for participation in the trust fund, one of which is the superintendent's signature. Lack of the superintendent's signature would deprive a teacher of the option of accessing the trust fund while pursuing NBPTS certification; however, the teacher could still pursue NB certification (without the benefit of the support offered through the trust fund), and if successful, the teacher would still qualify for Rank I and the \$2,000 salary supplement.

These are indeed challenging budgetary times. The EPSB appreciates your support of the important initiatives and programs we administer for the teachers of Kentucky. If you have any questions regarding the trust fund or National Board Certification, please contact Robert Brown at RobertL.Brown@ky.gov or by phone at 502.564.4606.